

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 879  
By Marrero

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Benjamin Joseph Ballin  
of Memphis, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Benjamin Ballin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ballin was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born Joseph Berel Balen on January 9, 1904 in Chastnick, Russia, Mr. Ballin did not receive a public education, but instead had a Hebrew teacher; and

WHEREAS, at the age of nineteen, after many years spent attempting to acquire the proper paperwork to leave Russia, Mr. Ballin finally obtained an American Visa and journeyed to America to join his family, who had arrived ten years earlier; and

WHEREAS, upon reaching the United States, Joseph Berel Balen became known as Benjamin Joseph Ballin, and joined his family in Memphis where he began to live the "American Dream" through hard work and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ballin served with acumen and alacrity as the owner of Ballin's Department Store in South Memphis, in which position he earned the respect of his staff and customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work; he later pursued real estate interests; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ballin was an active and devout member of the Baron Hirsch Synagogue where he served faithfully for many years as a regular participant in Sabbath services; he most recently served as a Board Member of the Synagogue and was a former Warden of the Baron Hirsch Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, a highly respected member of his community, Mr. Ballin was a Worshipful Master of Lelia Scott Masonic Lodge and was active in the Scottish Rite and Shrine; and

WHEREAS, an avid fan of various sports, Mr. Ballin was an active bowler and a dedicated St. Louis Cardinals and Atlanta Braves fan; he also enjoyed playing the slot machines at Horseshoe Casino in Tunica County; and

WHEREAS, during the 1950s, Ben Ballin acted as the treasurer for weekly undercover poker night held in the basement of the Synagogue and "would pull back a buck or two out of each pot" to donate to the Synagogue which, over the course of a half dozen years, led to a gift of 40,000 dollars; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ballin was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ben Ballin enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife Honcee for seventy years before her untimely passing, and was the proud father of two sons, Marvin and Gerald Ballin, and daughter, Ilene Goldstein; and

WHEREAS, a loving and well respected man, Mr. Ballin will also be sorely missed by his five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many friends and other family members; and

WHEREAS, Ben Ballin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Benjamin Joseph Ballin, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character, his courageous endeavors, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Ballin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.